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S.F. MAYOR'S RACE: WILLIE BROWN IS LOOKING.

Editor's note: Assembly Speaker Willie Brown(D-S.F.) is taking a serious look at running for Mayor of S.F. in November. Sources say he'll make some kind of statement on or about Mar. 20th. Here's a CALPEEK update & analysis...

...Over the past several weeks, the Demo Speaker of the CA Assembly has been meeting with various campaign consultants, insiders and close friends --- all as part of a process to determine whether he'll challenge Mayor Frank Jordan in the fall. Several sources confirm that one of the consultants Brown met with was Jack Davis, a key Jordan strategist in 1991. That's a good indication Brown is serious...

...Another indication is that in recent weeks there has been *increased activity* in the 3rd Senate District, the seat now occupied by Milton Marks, which he'll vacate in 1996 due to term limits. Brown was seriously considering a run here in '96. Sources now say Brown's close ally, Assemblyman John Burton, is making calls to his friends "across the Bay." Burton wouldn't be doing this unless Brown was considering "other options." (See 3rd S.D. story - *Campaign '96* - about others looking at this race)...

...And the last indication that Brown is seriously looking at this race is more in the form of a rhetorical question: why be one of 40 State Senators when you can be mayor of one of America's great cities???

...Could Brown beat Jordan? Even though Jordan's reelection numbers aren't that hot, it wouldn't be a slam dunk for Brown, because over the years the Speaker has made enemies as well as friends in S.F. and has been involved in a number of controversial deals. But he's part of the progressive Burton Machine (if that still means anything) and can raise a massive warchest.

Bottomline: next to popular U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-S.F.), Brown is Mayor Jordan's *worst nightmare*...

...In addition to Brown, the list of those still looking at the mayor's race includes Supes. Angela Alioto and Terence Hallinan, although sources feel Hallinan would bow out if Brown declares. And although Sup. Carole Migden was looking, sources say she's now lining up support to run for Brown's Assembly seat. Ditto Sup. Kevin Shelley, who is more inclined to run for Burton's seat (vs. Sup. Bill Maher)...

...FYI: If Brown decides to run for mayor, he might win backing from the S.F. Co. Demo Central Cmt. Remember, a recent court ruling allows political parties to make endorsements in non-partisan races. Stay tuned...

THE WHITE HOUSE RUN: THE PETE & PHIL SHOW.

Editor's note: The CA Republican Party's Feb. 24-26 convention in Sacto was all *presidential politics*. Here's our update & analysis...

...Calif. supporters of U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas are absolutely *ecstatic* about the reception their candidate received at the just concluded GOP State convention in Sacto. And during his speech to GOP delegates, Gramm threw down the glove to Gov. Pete Wilson and said he'll enter CA's Mar. 26 winner-take-all '96 GOP presidential primary, regardless of whether Wilson is in the race, to capture CA's 163 Republican delegates...

...Strong, fighting words and sources say Gramm will have his CA organization up and running in 2-3 weeks to back up those words. Gramm will begin his CA operation with a strong base of support. Just prior to the CRP convention, State Sen. Maurice Johannessen

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and Assemblyman Bernie Richter each circulated a Gramm For President endorsement letter in their respective houses. 8 of 16 GOP senators and 14 of 39 assembly members signed on. In addition to being conservatives and from the same general No. Calif. area, MoJo & Bernie share one other thing: savvy GOP campaign consultant Wayne Johnson, who was seen with Gramm almost the entire time the Texas senator was in Calif. Will Johnson be part of Gramm's team? Perhaps...

...The convention itself was really planned to be a Wilson event, with little presidential politicking by others (except for U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan). But only days before the convention, Gramm's schedule was changed so that he could conclude his 6-state announcement tour in CA. As the CRP had originally planned it, Gramm would be allowed to come to the CRP convention, but he was **not** scheduled to address the delegates. Why the CRP changed its mind and allowed Gramm to address the delegates on the last day is not clear, but some GOP sources suspect that the other GOP contenders were "sandbagged" and they're not happy campers...

...Some Gramm supporters in Calif. are especially pleased with the mini-coup they pulled off, at the expense of U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, whose Calif. staff felt he should stay away and let Pete Wilson have his day in the sun. The Dole camp is publicly saying they aren't losing any sleep over Gramm's move, but privately sources think they are really *steamed*...

...As for Wilson, he got a very enthusiastic response to his keynote address on Saturday, Feb. 25, where he officially endorsed CCRI (CA Civil Rights Initiative). That got Wilson a standing ovation, but not much else, other than more newspaper stories talking about the pros & cons of a presidential run by the 61-year-old governor. CRP delegates, who are much more conservative than CA rank & file GOP voters, are not thrilled that Wilson is even thinking about running for President. Neither is CA AG Dan Lungren, who expressed his displeasure at a Wilson White House run in an L.A. Times story by political writer Bill Stall. Hard-line conservatives get nauseous just thinking about Demo LG Gray Davis, who would become governor should Wilson end up on a winning GOP ticket in 1996. Bottomline: Dole, Gramm, political insiders & pundits, as well as CA voters, are still in a wait-and-see mode

for Wilson, with CALPEEK sources saying the odds are better than 60-40 **favoring** a Wilson run...

...FYI: Former TN Gov. Lamar Alexander on Mar. 1 entered the GOP presidential race. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '96: ADDING MORE NAMES TO THE MIX.

Editor's note: Here's another update on who's in and who's out for House & Legislative races in 1996...

● **25th S.D.** - A political bomb has been dropped on Sen. Teresa Hughes(D-L.A.) by Assemblymembers Willie Brown, Barbara Lee, Willard Murray and Marguerite Archie-Hudson --- all members of the CA Legislative Black Caucus. In a Feb. 6th letter to Hughes, these lawmakers say they witnessed an agreement made between Hughes and Assemblyman Curtis Tucker. The letter said in part, "That agreement, according to our recollection, was that in exchange for Curtis not running for the 25th S.D. in 1992 and supporting you for that office that you would in turn serve only one 4-year term, not run for reelection in 1996 and support Curtis for that seat." This agreement was supposedly made at the 1991 Nat'l Black Caucus of State Legislators Annual Conf. in Las Vegas. Heavy stuff which puts Demo Senate Leader Bill Lockyer in a tough spot...

● **3rd S.D.** - As mentioned in our lead story, Demo Assemblyman John Burton isn't the only one who is now eyeing Milton Marks' seat in '96. Add the names of S.F. City Atty. Louise Renne; former Demo Assemblywoman Vivian Bronshvag; businesswoman & community college trustee Maria Monet; Marin Co. Sup. Gary Giacomini (but only if Burton isn't running); activist Joe Nation; and perhaps S.F. Co. Sheriff Mike Hennessey. All are Demos. FYI: Giacomini, who has been a supe in Marin Co. since 1972 and will not seek reelection next year, has 76% name ID in Marin Co...

● **9th A.D.** - Demo Assemblyman Phil Isenberg of Sacto is out in '96. His seat is safe Demo turf and several names have surfaced: Sacto Co. Sup. Roger Dickinson, who was just reelected last year; Sacto Councilmembers Deborah Ortiz and perhaps Darrell Steinberg; and Matt Moretti, son of the late Assembly Speaker Bob Moretti. Former CDP chair and businessman Phil Angelides was looking, but sources think he'll back Dickinson. And most likely so will Steinberg,

who would then run for Dickinson's seat on the Board of Supes...

- **16th A.D.** - With Assemblywoman Barbara Lee(D-Oakland) set to battle with colleague Bob Campbell(D-Richmond) for State Sen. Nick Petris' 9th S.D. seat, former Alameda Co. Sup. Don Perata(D) has announced that he'll run for Lee's seat in 1996...

CALPEEK's INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

- **The Reading File** - Must reading for political insiders is the Feb. 26th article by L.A. Times staffers Mark Gladstone and Paul Jacobs about a legal battle going on between ex-Demo gubernatorial candidate Kathleen Brown and her campaign consultant Clint Reilly. Subject: does Brown owe Reilly any more money or vice versa? And should there be an audit of the campaign? Some political consultants were shocked that Reilly marked-up 1 campaign mailer (cost \$37,694.34) by **86%** --- bringing the total cost to \$96,750. As a source told CALPEEK, "This doesn't help the image of the campaign consulting profession." However, other sources noted that Brown and her staff looked *just as bad* for not keeping a closer watch on expenses. Thus we now know why Brown never deserved the title of *America's Best Treasurer*...

- **L.A. Muni Election** - Just a brief follow-up to our story of last week about L.A.'s 5th Council District race. Candidate Lea Purwin D'Agostino was tossed off the ballot by the L.A. City Clerk for not having enough valid signatures. A major screw-up by her campaign team...

- **CRP's New 1995-96 Officers** - Delegates at the recent CRP Convention in Sacto elected the following officers: John Herrington, chair; Michael Schroeder, vice chair; Shawn Steel, treasurer; John McGraw, asst. treasurer; Dave Titus, secretary; Celeste Greig, 1st asst. sect.; Gerry Snyder, 2nd asst. sect.; Bok Pon, No. CA vice chair; Michael Der Manouel Jr., Central CA vice chair; Mike Spence, So. CA vice chair; and Craig Powell, president of the county chairmen's assn. FYI: all the winners were endorsed by the CA Republican Assembly(CRA), a conservative GOP group...

- **Another Feinstein???** - S.F. Co. DA Arlo Smith may have some competition this November in the form of Kathleen Feinstein, daughter of DiFi, who is a former asst. DA; a member of the S.F. Police Comm.; and is a member of the Mayor's Task Force on Juvenile Crime. Smith has been around a long time and a fresh face could present a problem --- especially if the fresh face has a name like Feinstein. As one source who likes Arlo told CALPEEK, "She'd smoke him."...

- **The Big Split** - One of the better known political campaign firms is no more. Doak & Shrum have split, with David Doak & Michele Carrier forming Doak, Carrier & Assoc. (202)342-7700; while Bob Shrum and Ted Devine have formed Shrum, Devine, Inc.(202)434-4581. The break-up is about 2 weeks old and sources say it wasn't especially friendly. They did great TV ads and their big wins in '94 were for Demo U.S. Senators Ted Kennedy and Chuck Robb...

- **Polling Data on DiFi & Boxer** - The pollster is confidential, but the firm is well known to CALPEEK readers. Sample size 600, Feb. 9-13, in Marin County only, +/-3 pts. on U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. Boxer first: favorables 55%, neutral 8%, unfavorable 24%; name ID 98%. DiFi: favorables 72%, neutral 8%, unfavorable 20%, name ID 100%...

- **The L.A. County DA** - Downtown sources say there are some unhappy campers in DA Gil Garcetti's office, after the 1st term DA made a statement saying that he'd retry O.J. Simpson even if the jury favored acquittal by an 11-1 margin. To some critics, it sounded as though Garcetti had already thrown in the towel. Whatever the case, sources tell CALPEEK that Garcetti may have some high-powered competition in 1996 when he's up for reelection. Testing the waters is L.A. City Airport Comm. Chair Ted Stein, who used to be a deputy DA. He can raise big bucks; is from the Valley; and is close to L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan...

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CALIF. INITIATIVE UPDATE: NO FAULT READY.

Editor's note: Here's a brief update on a new ballot measure which has been given the okay to begin collecting signatures...

● **No Fault Motor Vehicle Insurance. Tort Liability.** is the official title of an initiative statute written by group previously identified by CALPEEK as the Alliance to Revitalize Calif. This measure would eliminate tort liability for vehicle caused death or injury, with some exceptions. The 3 proponents listed by the AG are Michael Johnson, Bill Zimmerman and Bill Westermeyer. They need to collect 433,269 signatures by July 24th in order to qualify for the Mar. 26, 1996 ballot. The Alliance can be contacted at Zimmerman's campaign office at (310)451-2522...

...FYI: the day the Sec. of State released this information (Feb. 27th), the CA Trial Lawyers Assn. (CTLA) received verbal & written proposals from about 20-30 political consultants (some of whom have formed teams) to win this account. The winner will have to fight this new initiative (plus perhaps 2 others) should it qualify. Stay tuned...

SEN. HAYDEN TO ADDRESS WOMEN FOR MARCH 9.

State Sen. Tom Hayden (D-West L.A.) will discuss campaign finance reform at a meeting hosted by *Women For*, 7:30 p.m., Mar. 9, University Synagogue, West L.A. Open to the public. For info (310)657-7411...

U.S. SEN. BILL BRADLEY AT COMMONWEALTH CLUB

U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley (D-NJ) will address members of the Commonwealth Club of CA, 12:15 p.m., Mar. 10, Club Regent, Fairmont Hotel, 170 S. Market St., San Jose. For info (415)597-6705...

35th S.D. UPDATE: AV BALLOTS ARE KEY FACTOR

Editor's note: In a 48-hour period two weeks ago, the number of requests for *absentee ballots* nearly doubled from 12,000 to 22,000. Here's an update on this 35th S.D. Special which takes place on Mar. 14...

...As of Wednesday, Mar. 1, there were 28,096 requests for absentee ballots in this special to replace Marian Bergeson (R-Newport Beach). And by that same date, 2,161 AV ballots had already been cast.

Most sources continue to rate this battle as a 3-way race between Assemblymembers Ross Johnson and Doris Allen, and former Assemblyman Gil Ferguson. All 3 are conservative Republicans. As CALPEEK has reported in recent weeks, the battling between Ferguson & Johnson has become vicious, so much so that another Johnson supporter, State Sen. Rob Hurtt, was quoted in a recent L.A. Times story saying that he thinks it's now possible that Allen could win...

...FYI: In addition to absentee ballots, the other thing to watch is the independent expenditures. By accident CALPEEK discovered that consultant John Whitehurst of S.F. will be doing the IE for the CTA/CMA. Both groups support Allen. Stay tuned...

1995 LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

April 6	Easter recess begins
April 17	Legislature reconvenes
April 21	Last day for policy cmts. to pass fiscal bills
May 12	Last day for policy cmts. to pass non-fiscal bills
May 27	Deadline for fiscal cmts. to act on fiscal bills
June 2	Last day for Senate to act on SBs and for Assembly to act on ABs
June 15	Budget must be passed by midnight
July 14	Last day for Assembly to hear Senate bills and for Senate to hear Assembly bills
July 14	Summer recess
August 14	Legislature reconvenes
September 15	Last day to pass bills
September 15	Interim recess begins
October 15	Last day for Gov. Wilson to sign/veto bills

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Former FPPC chair Ben Davidian and former FPPC executive director Wayne Ordos have been hired by the Sacto law firm of Wilke, Fleury, Hoffelt, Gould & Birney. They'll help expand the firm's political law dept...

● Karen M. Judge has been hired as an AE with the Sacto office of Stoorza, Ziegaus et al. Previously she had been in DC working for Podesta Associates...